

WALT SMITH

My Experiences and actions at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941.

I first learned of the attack when a Japanese torpedo hit the port side of the U.S.S. Oklahoma.

I was putting on my sneakers on my bunk as I was preparing to take the Church Party over to Mary's Point, I was the bow hook in number four motor launch.

I left the ship as the Okie started to capsize I jumped from the foremast into the water.

My battle station was the sixth division anti-aircraft. I ran to my gun station, but was unable to fire a shot off.

When I went in the water I could see men being pushed out a portal, some of them were injured, so I helped swim them over to the Maryland. I later found out that our Chaplain A Schmidt was the person helping them escape through the port hole.

I made several trips back in the water to rescue several men and take them to the blister edge of the Maryland.

I then went aboard the U. S. S. Maryland and passed ammunition to a pom- pom battery until the attack was over.

The crew of the Oklahoma was mustered off the Maryland, then five of us saw a motor whale boat floating and I swam out and got it started and the five of us went over to Aiea landing and a Marine Detachment armed us because they had heard there were saboteurs in the hills. We searched for two days and found nothing. We then went down to the ten-ten docks and got a destroyer The "" U.S.S. Waters DD 115. We left on the destroyer headed for Wake Island but orders were changed and we came back to search for Japanese subs around Pearl Harbor